

# The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



New Hampshire Fire Academy



Winter 2007

Volume XXVI – Number 1

A Service of New Hampshire Division of Fire Standards & Training and Emergency Medical Services

## ***“Training on the Leading Edge”***

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Dear EMS & Fire Personnel:

Tobacco is not only smoked! There seems to be an increasing number of emergency responders who are observed either chewing tobacco or having a “dip” as it is called. The composition of these products have three major concerns: 1) the nicotine is extremely addictive; 2) smokeless tobacco contains MORE than 25 cancer causing agents or carcinogens, and; 3) those who partake are far more likely to become cigarette smokers. What is it that makes someone want to put this in their mouth, or between their gum and lip...is it the bulge in the lip, is it the round stain on the back pocket of your favorite jeans? I don't know but people are becoming permanently disabled and disfigured from these products.

Now you have probably figured this is written by a non-tobacco user, well you are correct. That said, I did try to smoke once, I was a young teenager working at a summer camp...the person who gave me the cigarette told me I had to smoke it to the line he drew (next to the filter)...I did and I have never had a desire for more. I still thank him for making that requirement, even though it is nearly forty years ago! As a young Firefighter I also tried the smokeless tobacco...this was equally bad. The crowning decision maker was when a colleague entered a burning building with his mask on, but he forgot to remove his “chew” and ended up swallowing the whole mess...telling me about almost made me sick, I decided tobacco and I are not meant for each other.

So who cares what I think about this topic...well just read my letter in the past issues, there is a common theme: SAFETY! This is as big of a safety issue as not wearing all your protective clothing, or properly securing a ladder, or not wearing your seatbelt, except this issue will take a lot longer, and probably more pain, to do its damage! So please when it comes to tobacco, not to use an old cliché, but JUST SAY NO!

Remember, we need to practice and train just as we would do things during an emergency, so let's do it all with safety and safe practices! Have a great 2007 and remember: Everyone Goes Home!

Respectfully, Rick Mason

LINKS: <http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/factsheets/smokelesstobacco.htm>  
<http://www.firehero.org/> (National Fallen Firefighter' Foundation)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1st Thurs. of each month (except July-August) .....	NH Fire Standards & Training Commission Meeting 10:00 a.m. ....	NHFA
2nd Thurs. of each month .....	Tests/Retests; sittings at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; preregistration required by 1st of month .....	NHFA

### FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTOR PROGRAMS:

Watch for future listings Coming Fall 2007

### FIRE OFFICER PROGRAMS:

Watch for future listings

### FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMS:

6/4/07 - 6/15/07 .....	Certified Career Fire Fighting .....	NHFA
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### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAMS:

Watch for future listings

### NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY PROGRAMS:

4/21/07 - 4/22/07 .....	Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialists II
6/9/07 - 6/10/07 .....	Arson Detection for First Responders

## SPECIALTY PROGRAMS

### AIR CRAFT FIREFIGHTING PROGRAMS:

5/13/07 - 5/19/07 .....	Airport Firefighting NFPA 1003 .....	NHFA
10/8/07 - 10/13/07 .....	Airport Firefighting NFPA 1003 .....	NHFA

### TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAMS:

5/19/07 - 5/20/07 .....	Leadership I: Strategies for Company Success (Train the Trainer)
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Please check our website monthly for upcoming programs at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/fst/uprograms.html>

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# **NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE SERVICE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF MERIT**

**Division of Fire Standards and Training  
and Emergency Medical Services  
33 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03305-0002**

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMITTEE OF MERIT AWARD PROGRAM**

The New Hampshire Fire Service Committee of Merit announces its Annual Awards Program, and again requests the support of all fire and EMS personnel in recognizing outstanding acts of courage by career, call, and volunteer fire and emergency medical service personnel of New Hampshire.

This program was initiated in 1986, after the death of Concord Dispatcher Paul Sypek. In his estate, Paul left the original funding and designated a committee to carry out the plan for this recognition. The first annual award ceremony was held in 1987 and, since then, many New Hampshire fire service personnel have been given awards for their heroic actions. Fall 2005 was the first cooperative event created to recognize both fire and emergency medical service personnel.

## **WE NEED YOUR INPUT NOW!**

There are many fire and EMS personnel throughout the State who have performed courageous acts that should be recognized. Any events occurring between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006 are eligible at this time for presentation at our next awards ceremony in 2007.

## **NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

1. A typed letter on proper organization letterhead from (a) Chief of Fire Department of designee; (b) head of a recognized fire/emergency service organization or union; (c) Town or City Manager, Mayor, Selectman, etc. The letter is to describe the action and circumstances leading to the action. It must be a detailed report of what happened, including the type of emergency, time of day, date, and a description of conditions which made the event hazardous, dangerous or unusual.
2. Nominee(s)' name, mailing address, home and work telephone, fire department or organization, and rank must be included in the letter.
3. All paid, call, and volunteer firefighters or emergency service personnel are eligible; also, awards may be made posthumously.
4. Include any pertinent newspaper clippings, photographs, or videos, as well as a listing of any other awards the nominee(s) received.

**DEADLINE:** Should be postmarked no later than January 30, 2007

**MAIL TO:** NH Fire Service Committee of Merit  
Stacey DeVol, Secretary  
33 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03305

**ANY QUESTIONS:** Contact Stacey at 1-866-552-2661 ext. 213 or 271-2661

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## RESCUE PROGRAMS

The following is a brief description of the FF-III Rescue programs currently being offered by New Hampshire Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services. The description includes a brief outline of the class and the program objectives. The length, prerequisites and class sizes are also covered. The following are approved to run as adopted programs:

ITRS

Confined Space

Trench Rescue

Rescue Systems – I

Rescue Systems – II

The Fire Standards and Training Commission has given the okay to pilot the following programs:

Ice Rescue

Rope Rescue – Operations

Rope Rescue – Technician

Please watch for future course postings regarding dates for these classes. If you have any questions you can contact Steve McKenna, Technical Rescue Programs Coordinator, at 603-271-2661 ext. 123

### INTRODUCTION TO TECHNICAL RESCUE SKILLS

**32 HOURS**

Introduction to Technical Rescue Skills is a 32-hour, four-module program that is the pre-requisite for any of the FF-III Rescue programs. Course was designed to prepare students for the individual classes by covering the knowledge and skills needed for multiple disciplines in one program. An example of this would be air monitoring. Air monitoring is required in Confined Space, Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse. Rather than spend a day in each of those programs covering air monitoring it is taught in depth in the ITRS program and reviewed in the individual classes.

### CONFINED SPACE RESCUE TECHNICIAN

**24 HOURS**

Confined Space Rescue is an intense 24 hour program featuring a combination of classroom and practical evolutions combined with real life scenarios on day three. Confined Space Entry and Rescue is one of the most challenging and dangerous rescue operations facing fire and rescue services today. This course will provide the knowledge and practical skills necessary to safely and legally mitigate a confined space emergency. Students will be challenged both mentally and physically to complete the objectives and scenarios.

### ICE RESCUE TECHNICIAN

**16 HOURS**

Ice Rescue Technician is an intense 16 hour program featuring a combination of classroom and practical evolutions. Field exercises will be held on ice and in the water. Course covers Awareness, Operations, and Technician level skills to provide students with knowledge and skills necessary to safely mitigate an ice rescue incident. Students will be challenged both mentally and physically to complete the objectives and scenarios.

### TRENCH RESCUE TECHNICIAN

**32 HOURS**

Trench Rescue is a very intense hands-on 32 hour program featuring a combination of classroom and practical evolutions combined with real life scenarios on days two, three, and four. Trench Rescue is one of the most challenging and dangerous rescue operations facing fire and rescue services today. This course will provide the knowledge and practical skills necessary to safely and legally mitigate a trench collapse or excavation emergency. Designed to provide the needed understanding of the inherent dangers that surround the many open trenches and excavations that can be found in any major urban or rural area. Students will be challenged both mentally and physically to complete the objectives and scenarios.

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**ROPE RESCUE - OPERATIONS****40 HOURS**

Rope Rescue - Operations is an intense 5 day program featuring a combination of classroom and practical evolutions combined with real life scenarios on days two through five. This course will provide the knowledge and practical skills necessary to safely and legally mitigate a rescue involving rope work whether low or high angle. Students will be challenged both mentally and physically to complete the objectives and scenarios.

**ROPE RESCUE - TECHNICIAN****40 HOURS**

Rope Rescue - Technician is a very intense 5 day hands-on program featuring a combination of classroom and practical evolutions combined with real life scenarios on days two through five. This course is designed to continue the development of skills and knowledge obtained in the Rope Rescue – Operations course, while exposing the student to those skills expected and required of the professional rescue technician. Students will be challenged both mentally and physically to complete the objectives and scenarios.

**RESCUE SYSTEMS – I****50 HOURS**

Rescue Systems I is an intensive, six-day program dealing with emergency response to structural collapse emergencies. This program has been developed by the National Fire Academy and the California Office of Emergency Services. Course is very challenging both mentally and physically. Expect 10 – 12 hour work days. Course culminates in a scenario on day 6 that will require teamwork and a total commitment from all students to complete. Rescue Systems - I will have an emphasis on rope rescue and confined space rescue as well as structural collapse.

**RESCUE SYSTEMS – II****50 HOURS**

Rescue Systems II is a 6 day program designed to allow the student to demonstrate problem-solving skills during a rescue operation. The program is designed to build off the Rescue Systems I program. Course takes the skills learned in a 2 hour rotation during one day in RS – I and spends an entire day on them in RS – II. This is a very challenging course which focuses on expanding on the skills and knowledge learned in Rescue Systems - I.

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## **ENTRANCE TESTING**

Entrance testing / CPAT testing is in the process of getting ready to pick dates, send out Department agreements and contact instructors. Dates should be similar to last years times but with a few changes to the orientation portion.

If you have any questions now please feel free to contact Scott Merrill at the Fire Academy or watch for dates and information to come.

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The basic foundations of the Academy are based on its training programs and the work and efforts of its instructors. Our success, in large, is due to the dedicated work of these instructors and the time they have taken to train the hundreds of students each year that partake in our programs. This process, like all processes, is not without its strengths and areas in need of improvement.

For years, the fire "side" and the EMS "side" have worked through their own respective systems of training and certifying instructors making it difficult, at best, for those who wished to "cross over" that line, and become an instructor in both disciplines.

As the Fire Academy has been transformed into the Division of Fire Standards and Training AND Emergency Medical Services, it seems only fitting that we take a closer look at our instructors, on both sides of the house. We need to focus our efforts and bring these processes together to form the basis of one united system to certify and evaluate new instructors be it Fire or EMS. We must break down those imaginary boundaries that have separated Fire from EMS and, what better place to begin than with our present and future instructional staff.

The first steps to this bold new idea have all ready been put into motion. With the evolution of the FIRE instructor

programs to the newly revised FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES instructor programs, we now successfully teach instructors from both Fire and EMS disciplines together under the same curriculum.

We have now begun work in identifying key concepts and in both disciplines to include the review of:

1. Train the trainer and orientation programs.
2. Mentoring process with cross over of hours from one side to the other.
3. Recognition and training of mentors.
4. On-going evaluations of instructors with annual reviews.
5. A Quality management (QM) process to remediate issues of concern as they pertain to instructors or the programs that they present.

This process will not be a quick one, but will help to solidify the ever-present relationship between Fire and Emergency Medical Services. As we learn from our past and move into the future, our instructional staff will only become better and the Academy will strive to provide a supportive environment for our instructors. One that will operate under one process, with one mission, to provide the best instructors and programs we can to keep our training "on the leading edge."

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## News From the ARFF World!

*By Captain John Uitts*

The Academy hosted the second pilot 40-hour ARFF class this past fall. The class of 24 received their certifications. The attendees were from the military, local fire departments, and a few new ARFF department members. It was apparent that the class size was too large and that will be reduced in future classes. As a result of losing much of the staff to support a, PD line of death, funeral in Manchester on the last day we had to rearrange the class time. This compressed the Friday operations to include the remaining hands on activities. While this meets the requirements of the FAA and NFPA, it was not the best of situations. All in all the student class reviews were positive and the suggestions presented will be implemented in following classes. One of the largest changes will be a new very dynamic Power Point program. This will reduce redundancies and add more visuals that relate to the topics being discussed. We are also working on more hands on visual materials for the classroom and updated pavement markings.

In addition to the 48.5-hour program, the site was the host to many annual recertification trainings. Response has continued to build for this use. As part of the rework of the main program, we will make use of that material to develop a planning guide for departments returning for certification and wish for more guidance. The response on this front has continued to build as a result of our location, dormitory, and gently guiding staff. We have a core group of excellent and talented instructors with several additional in the wings. I believe we have a winning program that meets the applicable standards and is as good or better than that presented at other locations. As with any program, continued improvements will be necessary to keep on top of the quality. It is our people that will make or break our programs and most deserve a big pat on the back!

A May and October 48.5 hour class has been inserted in the schedule and you should see course announcements soon. Recertification trainings are scheduled on an individual department basis and you should be contacting Ted Starkweather or myself soon to make sure you get the dates you request.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Commissioner of Safety or Designee:**

**EARL M. SWEENEY**

Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Safety

**Federation of Fire Mutual Aids Association:**

**KEVIN PRATT**

Chief, Raymond Fire Department

Term expires: June 16, 2007

**Commissioner of Education or Designee:**

**EDWARD R. MURDOUGH**

NH Department of Education

**NH State Firemen's Association:**

**ALFRED "BUTCH" BURBANK**

Deputy Chief, Waterville Valley Fire Department

Term expires: August 1, 2009

**Attorney General or Designee:**

**KAREN SCHLITZER**

Attorney, NH Department of Justice

**Insurance Industry of NH:**

**JOHN C. HOGLUND**

Term expires: April 14, 2007

**Chief of Forest Fire Service:**

**BRAD SIMPKINS**

Chief, Bureau of Forest Protection,

Division of Forests & Lands

**NH Municipal Association:**

**VACANT**

**State Fire Marshal:**

**J. WILLIAM DEGNAN**

State Fire Marshal, Division of Fire Safety,

NH Department of Safety

**NH Permanent Firemen's Association:**

**JOSEPH M. BUTTS**

Captain, Manchester Fire Department

Term expires: February 15, 2008

**NH Fire Chiefs Association -**

**Career Chief:**

**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**

Chief, Hooksett Fire Department

Term expires: November 12, 2009

**NH Fire Prevention Society:**

**GEORGE E. SYKES, III**

Deputy Chief, Lebanon Fire Department

Term expires: February 14, 2008

**NH Fire Chiefs Association -**

**Chief of Volunteer F.D.:**

**CARL F. ROEDIGER**

Chief, New Castle Fire Department

Term expires: November 12, 2009

**Executive Officer:**

**RICHARD A. MASON**

Director, Division of Fire Standards & Training and  
Emergency Medical Services, NH Department of Safety

**Professional Fire Fighters of NH - IAFF:**

**DAVID DUQUETTE, Chairman**

Captain, Dover Fire & Rescue

Term expires: November 12, 2009

**Fire Instructors & Officers Association of NH:**

**STEPHEN M. CARRIER, Vice-Chairman**

Chief, Tilton-Northfield Fire Department

Term expires: February 15, 2008

THE NH FIRE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION  
IS ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RSA 21-P:25

## NIMS Training Compliance Update

NIMS training compliance is an ongoing process for both the State as a whole and local jurisdictions and agencies. While many localities are in full compliance, there are still many who are not. Achieving compliance for your jurisdiction and/or agency is fairly simple: all responders must complete these courses -

IS-700 Introduction to NIMS

IS-100 Introduction to ICS (or the equivalent)

IS-200 Basic ICS (or the equivalent)

IS-800 Introduction to the National Response Plan

This training should be completed by September 2007.

### **I've already taken the Fire Academy's 16 hour ICS course. Do I need to take 100 and 200 as well?**

No. The ICS training requirement can be met by having completed the NFA's 16-hour ICS program that has been offered by the NH Fire Academy for quite some time. It is not necessary to take IS-100 and/or IS-200 if you have already taken the NFA ICS course.

### **How can I get the courses that I need?**

All of the listed courses can be taken online or in a classroom. The classroom method is recommended and can be scheduled by contacting your Field Captain or the NH Fire Academy. The Field Captain for the Northern Region is Harry McGovern at 419-9444 and the Field Captain for the Southern Region is Meredith Lund at 419-9500.

### **What if I have more questions?**

If you have any questions regarding NIMS compliance, please contact Captain Bob Pragoff at the NH Fire Academy at 271-2661 X106 or [rpragoff@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:rpragoff@safety.state.nh.us)

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## Rose Bowl Parade and Football Game

Most people in New Hampshire can only see the New Year's Day Rose Bowl Parade and football game on television. But this year, N.H. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Chris Pope got to see the events - and the preparations for the - close up.

At the invitation of Deputy Pasadena, Calif., Police chief Chris Vicino, Pope spent nearly four days observing security operations for the events, which attracted hundreds of thousands of spectators celebrating the New Year.

The event starts around 6 p.m. New Year's Eve with spectators camping out for the night on sidewalks along the parade route.

"It's like a five-mile-long all-night tailgate party, but with a family atmosphere," Pope said. He added that there were only 15 arrests. The parade started at 8 a.m., followed by the game at 2.

Pope said he was very impressed by the massive (but discrete!) federal presence at the events and the high level of cooperation among local, county, state and federal agencies.

"Every cruiser on patrol before and during the events had a Pasadena city police officer and an L.A. County

Sheriff's deputy," he said. "The city officers know the neighborhoods and the streets and the sheriff's deputies provided extra manpower."

Federal agencies taking part in the operation were the FBI, ATF, a radiological detection team from the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition, personnel from a Civil Support Unit from the California National Guard, L.A. County and Pasadena Fire Departments, the Irvine, Calif., police department and private security agencies provided assistance. All are coordinated by a joint command, using a NIMS model.

Pope noted that the whole event was marked by extraordinary advance planning, with response plans fine-tuned every year.

"They've been doing this for about 118 years," he said. This year there were no credible threats to the event, although there have been in previous years.

Pope added that the whole operation is very similar to major races at N.H. International Speedway, which attracts nearly as many people. Both are designed as family events which attract large numbers of spectators and RVs and both permit the controlled use of alcoholic beverages.



## NHFIRS

### How to Submit Your NHFIRS Electronically:

You may send data to the following e-mail address as an attachment:

**[nhfirs@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:nhfirs@safety.state.nh.us)**

Please note that Firehouse software does offer you a place to send it via email. This process DOES NOT work. Please send your data to the email address above as an attachment file.

The following parameters must be followed in order for us to accept the file.

1. Data file must be virus free and must conform to the standard NFIC/USFA data format for either 4.1 or version 5.0 files.
2. Subject line must read: **[TOWN] Data Submission for MM/YYYY** (where [TOWN] equals the FD Name, MM equals the month being submitted and YYYY equals the year. (Example: Anywhere FD Data Submission for 01/2000))
3. The body of the e-mail must contain the following information:
  - A. Name of Department
  - B. Contact Person
  - C. FDID of Department
  - D. Filename being attached
  - E. Version of Data being submitted: Version 4.1 or 5.0
  - F. Date range of data included.
  - G. Name of Software being used to create file
  - H. Remarks including any special instructions
4. Data still must be submitted one **complete** month at a time.
5. Data is due in our office no later than the fifteenth of the month following. For example: January's data is due in our office by February 15. The only exception to this policy is December's data. An extra month is allowed to finish off the year. The year-end data is due by February 15.
6. Error reports will be mailed back to the standard department address unless we are instructed to do otherwise. We are working on attempting to convert this print job to a text file to e-mail back to you.

**If you have any questions concerning this policy, please feel free to contact our office at:**

**603-271-3294 or  
[nhfirs@safety.state.nh.us](mailto:nhfirs@safety.state.nh.us)**

## FIRE & EMS NEWS SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST FORM

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## The Fire and Emergency Medical Services News



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